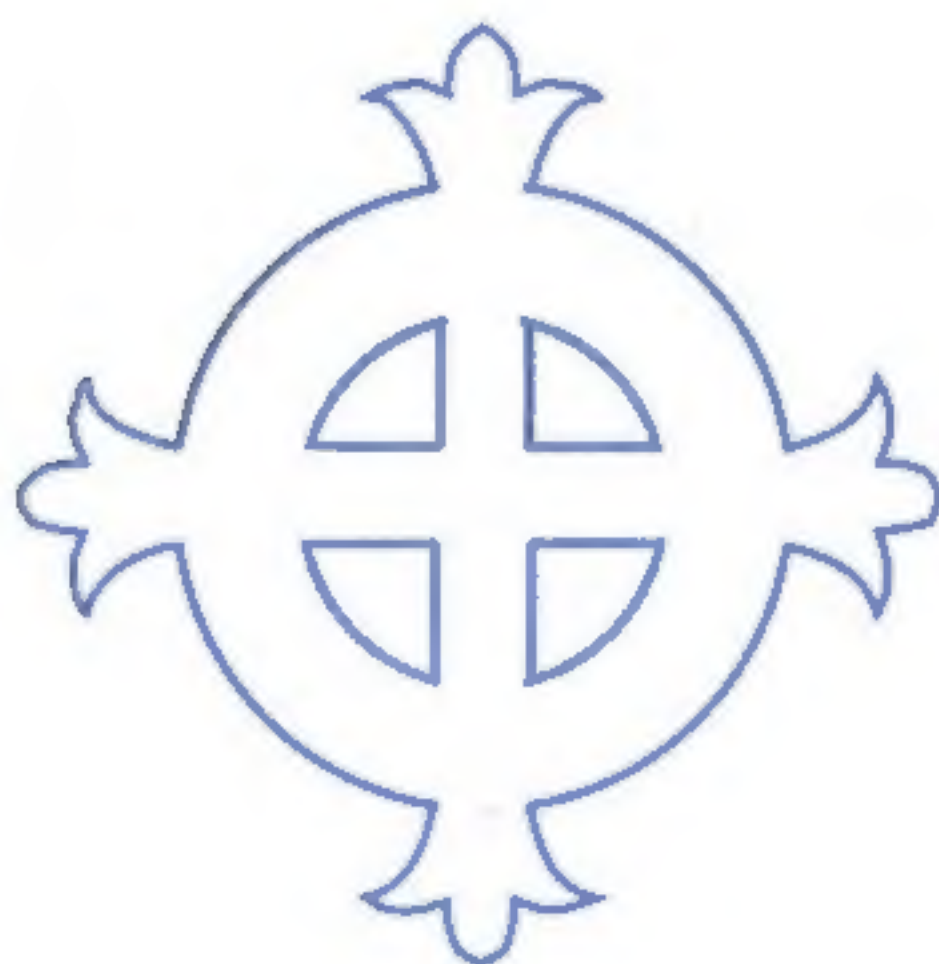


**AN INTRODUCTION TO THE
MADRIAN FAITH
THE RELIGION OF THE GODDESS**





"Come to Me as little children in the pure simplicity of your hearts and the virgin innocence of your souls; for truly, all of you are children in the eyes of your Mother, and I shall receive all who come as Her children."

the words of the Daughter

INTRODUCTION

This is an introduction to the Goddess's Way, the way of the Spirit, which sets you on the path towards the One who is waiting for Her children to return to Her. It is a simple, yet profound way of joy for the soul that seeks the truth. With Her help, Her Grace, you may come to know the deeper parts of your soul which yearns for a closer contact with her Mother.

The way that the Goddess recommends to you is one of devotion and prayer, of humility and peace, of knowledge and love. It is a way that in its essence has remained unchanged ever since humanity lost its way and then sought to return to its Home. Naturally, there are many religions in the world today, all of them patriarchal, yet they all draw the origins of their philosophies and practices from the primordial religion of the Goddess. Madrians have a more direct source of the Goddess's guidance, and aim to rely on the revelations of Her will. Thus although there are Madrian prophets and saints, holy and enlightened souls, there is not the same focussing on a human being or a particular historical event that characterises the patriarchal religions. The focus is single-mindedly on the Goddess, and no lesser light is allowed to stand in the way, no matter how superhuman.

Further differences are that the Madrian Faith is gentler and imbued with the qualities of the Goddess, rather than harsher, masculinist attributes, falsely imposed on the Divine by erroneous human thinking and emotions. This means that the Goddess is without anger, wrath, jealousy or vengefulness, or a desire to punish. We can only describe Her qualities in human terms and that is why the feminine is Her true nature, though there are aspects for which we do not have adequate words to describe. How can we describe the immense might that is just, loving and merciful, that governs the outcomes in the world and that holds

the potential of destructive power? To describe this as wrath is to deny that it is still wholly an aspect of love with no anger, hatred or loathing within it. We cannot help but be in awe of the greatness of the Goddess, Madria Dea, She who has created the whole cosmos and holds the power to cause it to cease to exist. Whatever we can think She is, She is always more. She is also all that is and all that is not, all that we cannot even imagine or conceive of Her greatness is without bounds. It is only we human beings who live in blindness of this great majesty, who puff ourselves up so that we think of nothing else but our feeble human 'greatness.' There is also, nowadays, a tendency to be so unaware of Her greatness - when people refer to the Goddess (or all too often goddess) they diminish Her and make Her seem like some mere diva, or great nature spirit.

The truth is that the Goddess is everything that you know about God (without the masculinist aspects), but the more correct way to talk of God is as Goddess, as has been known throughout history and only (comparatively) recently obscured by patriarchy and its temporal exigencies.

It must be said, too, that it is not merely a case of men trying to alter the true image of the Divine to suit political or other ends - to see men as the ones to blame, whilst women are quite innocent, is a total misrepresentation and bias.

The female image has been portrayed variously as a kind of good fortune mascot (e.g. Lakshmi) who will shower her favourites with material wealth, and she herself likes to adorn herself with jewellery. Nothing could be further from the truth. Nor is there a goddess of free love who promotes promiscuity, except in the minds of those who want their own lasciviousness given a higher sanction.

WHAT IS THE MADRIAN FAITH?

Here is a brief outline of what the Madrian Faith. It is a way to come closer to knowing the Goddess, the Creatrix of All That Is and all that is not, and the Great Mother Who watches over you lovingly at every instant.

It is the most ancient religion, as it originates at the very dawn of human history, and the patriarchal religions that we now have - Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, and all others - are in one way or another indebted to it, and their underlying foundations are the same. That is why it may be termed the primordial religion, the universal philosophy, the basic tenets of which have remained unaltered for millennia, and which have given humankind its ethical and moral guidelines.

But let's start with clarifying who exactly the Goddess is. We are all familiar with the concept of God, the Deity, the Divine Being. In our patriarchal society God has come to be known (exclusively) as the Father and referred to as He.

This is a relatively new development historically because before the social order became patriarchal, the same one Deity was known as the Great Mother, the Goddess, and indeed by various other designations and names.

Now this whole subject of whether the Deity should be known as She or



he is too involved to go into briefly, but further explanations are available. For the sake of brevity we will skip over the parts of history when the changeover took place. The Madrian Truth is that the Goddess is a Trinity, Three-in-One, comprising the Absolute, the Mother and the Daughter.

You will see that there is no masculine aspect, not even for the sake of the concept of "equality" or "balance". This may seem unfair, arbitrary and dogmatic – surely the Divine Being would not discount maleness from Herself; this would amount to the same kind of bias and unfairness that patriarchy is accused of? The only way to understand it is to see things from a different point of view, the perspective of Truth which is higher than human reasoning.

By the way, there is no other Deity but the One Goddess. She has no equal, since it is impossible. Thus Madrians only use the word Goddess to denote the Deity, not any lesser light, certainly never a human being. If we use the word goddess in a trivial and non-sacred way (as happens all too frequently these days in ignorance, for example, when a woman is referred to as a goddess to exaggerate some of her qualities, or in some religions to denote a highly spiritual person) – all this is a serious way to deny the glory and greatness that only belong to the Goddess.

All that may seem dogmatic and probably off-putting to some, who might see it as excluding other ways of understanding things and respecting other spiritualities. However, we need to understand where the authority to make such assertions comes from. If you would be prepared to give it some thought as you read through the whole of this information, you will not deny yourself the opportunity to learn about the Goddess's message, which is vital to each soul.

So when we talk about the fundamental Madrian beliefs, they are not the opinions or ideas of individuals. For this prime reason, the Madrian Faith cannot be called a 'cult' or anything similar, since it is a direct Revelation from the Divine.

It is what the Goddess wants you to know and understand for your spiritual progress and salvation.

Thus you are not being led hither and thither by someone claiming to

Who are we?

We are humans, of course. But there are two widely diverging perspectives as to our origins and consequently as to who we really are: created by the Goddess as Her children with the power of choice, or merely evolved from animal origins by virtue of fortunate, but ultimately accidental circumstances.

The scientific explanation that we are part of the animal kingdom, having evolved from apes of some sort into half-humans and gradually into our fully human state, holds sway as it is generally accepted in various areas of life – books, television, most scientists. The other explanation, that we were created by the Goddess (or rather by God, as it is mainly Christians who counter the animal-origins theory), is held by many people in a quiet way, but one very rarely hears or sees it propounded in the media. The fact is that these days people's ideas and opinions are all too often moulded by what they read or see, especially on the television.

If we wish to consider the question of our spiritual progress, we do need

have the answers to life's questions or who can give you guidance based on his or her own experience of life. You are being given signposts that lead directly to Heaven, eventually, and guidelines as to how to live the earthly life in the best way so as to guarantee spiritual progress.

A Madrian obeys the Goddess through Her teachings, willingly and out of love, not reluctantly out of a sense of obligation or duty. She may have the assurance of Divine protection, which counts for more than any human efforts can provide. The humility with which one gives this obedience freely means there is no fear of being bound by dogma or having one's freedom curtailed. To a Madrian the intolerable restriction would be to be following someone's ill-thought out ideas, not based in the Spirit, leading to where?

It is a matter of looking further ahead than even what might lie beyond this life, and making a choice – a choice between the Spiritual and the material: to live for a higher purpose or to look only at each day in a narrower sense. The element of free will choice is very important within the way of the Goddess – it is always present. Indeed, one learns to use it with greater wisdom and responsibility, and develops respect for others in a deeper sense.

To those who find the very idea of religion off-putting because of what they perceive in existing religions and prefer the idea of creating one's own values – if you are actually reading this introduction, then you may be willing to give it a chance, to see what it is all about before rejecting it outright. Often people assert that one can have humility without believing in God, and that the religious are arrogant in their affirmations, but humility is only true in relation to accepting the Divine, because then there is something higher than the self. One cannot truly say one is humble in relation to one's ego. For true spirituality, there have to be absolute values; otherwise one is holding up the (fallible) human self as the source of highest values and denying there can be anything higher than this. This is essentially a God-denying belief-system, such as Buddhism.

to address this question and consider it carefully, for it makes a great difference. From the Madrian point of view, we were created by the Goddess in a state of perfection*, and thus in union with Her (though naturally not equal to Her, as nothing can be equal to the Divine). We were created with free will and the power to use it, and our first moral act was to turn away from the Goddess, which resulted in the fall from perfection and the consequent necessity to live on earth with imperfection.

This power to make choices is what essentially distinguishes us from either animals or the beings of other realms, such as angels. (There are, of course, many other secondary reasons why we are not of the same order as animals.) This is why the word 'maiden' is linked etymologically to the root meaning 'may' or 'might' – the one who may, who has the power to (act on choice). The Slavonic languages, for example, have the word, pronounced *muzh*, for 'man', linked to the verb to be able, can, may. (*muzh* in Czech, also in Russian, and also interestingly, *mush* as a colloquial term for a man comes from the

Romany language from India.) This power, our birthright, may be rusty and it needs to be used with wisdom as it brings with it a great responsibility, but at the same time it opens the gates to our freedom. Thus a deeper understanding of our true nature and the purpose of life makes us see things in a different light, but most of all it gives our lives a new meaning.

• To say that we were created by the Supreme Being as souls before incarnating on the earth does not deny the validity of scientific knowledge

about the origins of the universe and the great wealth of information we now have on the cosmos and its physical properties. Scientists are looking at these things purely from the point of view of matter, which is natural to them since they are able to use mathematics to prove the validity of their theories and back them up with observable findings. However, there are still great gaps in this knowledge and a lack of a unifying overview.

Some of the basic Madrian beliefs – the things we hold as true.

- your soul is immortal, death being a gateway to the next stage of existence.
- your soul has lived many lifetimes previously to this one and will continue to live.
- we make choices all the time and these choices, which shape our spiritual life, are choices between good and evil.
- a choice for good brings us closer to the Goddess, and a choice for evil takes us further away from Her, into places which are extremely unpleasant to be in.
- it is your choices, recent and distant, which make your path what it is and which colour your spiritual life.
- you have free will and you shape your own destiny or karma, though you do not have the power to determine when and how it will unfold (in the major things of life). Nonetheless, you have more power than you are aware of.
- Your thoughts and your words, as well as your actions, have an effect on how your life proceeds.
- we have a true self and a false self, which is the egoic part that is so easily blinded by the delusions and illusions of this world.
- we should love our self, that is our true self, wholeheartedly, and thus love all other people, who are our brothers and sisters in the Goddess, and all Her creatures. We should respect Nature and the gifts of the earth as the Goddess's bounty and beneficence.

BEING A MADRIAN - WHAT IT MEANS

How different is life as a Madrian?

You can take up as little or as much of the Madrian Way as you wish. There are changes involved and they need to be taken on only when one is ready. Certainly, there will be no pressure from anyone to adopt new ways against your will.

You can carry on living in the same way as you are doing now, earning a living in the way you choose. The main differences are inward; how you choose to manifest inward changes is up to your own wisdom. The daily round comprises prayers at morning and evening, in your own home. There are certain times for fasting, which are not over taxing, and there are times for feasting. Then there are ritual devotions according to the Sacred Calendar, the home being the focus. Everything is done one step at a time, according to one's spiritual readiness. The biggest step is a total commitment to the Goddess by becoming Initiated as a Madrian and thus entering her Church, which may be years along the way.

It means not being afraid to accept a path of virtue, to seek to overcome

faults and failings, and to grow stronger, without becoming encumbered with the weight of guilt.

A Madrian has integrity and acts and speaks with honesty and honour. She or he has respect for all those around her, or him, whoever they may be and the followers of other religions are thought of as brothers and sisters. All animals are treated with kindness and love.

A Madrian's life is devoted to putting into practice the Teachings and guidance that the Goddess has given us. Thus the soul grows in beauty and goodness, and sends out ripples that touch other lives.

We cannot promise fellowship as the number of Madrians is very small indeed and you may well find a need to adopt a pioneering spirit of necessity.

But you will find the Faith offers everything your soul form of religion, even in this Age of Darkness, when the true Light still penetrates the obscuring clouds of evil and godlessness. For Our Lady is ever present, waiting for each of Her children to turn away from the emptiness and coldness of living for the sake of what one can gain from the world. To live in the spirit is to live more richly, to experience life more deeply, to have wholeness and peace and security.

A Brief History of the Amazons

THE last five thousand years and more have constituted the Kali Yuga, or the Age of Iron: the tail end of the great cycle of history of our present humanity. The first millennia of the Iron Age saw the decadence of the old matriarchates and the gradual encroachment of patriarchal and semi-patriarchal forms of society and religion. The gentle, ordered world, oriented toward beauty and the feminine principle was beginning to give way to a harsher way of life which would eventually lead to the violence and

materialism of the modern world.

Large parts of the world remained untouched by these changes. Some did not even hear of patriarchy until many hundreds of years later. But in the eastern Mediterranean, the Middle East, India and China, semi-matriarchal and semi-patriarchal regimes vied with each other, producing almost every imaginable form of hybrid government and social order. The general drift of the tide was toward greater and greater patriarchy, with male sovereigns,



men occupying most positions of authority and war and armed force becoming increasingly a factor in human affairs.

It is a mistake to suppose that because a masculine régime is established women have no longer an important position. The "public life" of politics, war and commerce was never more than half of life (although, increasingly, men have liked to call it "the real world"). The other half, and in many ways the more important half, has been the private life of the home, where, at most times, woman has reigned supreme and feminine ideals of beauty, order and gentleness have formed the true basis of civilisation. Children have always been educated in the home and the whole sense of identity and selfhood has been formed and centred in the home. Only in very late times, with public education removed from the home and with the "outside world" of the mass-media extending its tentacles into the very heart of the feminine private world has the most extreme form of patriarchy been established, in which the feminine principle was routed out of the feminine domain itself and women persuaded to become carbon copies of male "workers".

Nonetheless, in a world recently matriarchal, the new patriarchal order was offensive to more traditional people who looked back to the "golden order" (*chrysothemis*) of their recent heritage. Furthermore, some early patriarchal régimes – like some later ones – were extremely harsh and oppressive to women: the ancient Greeks, long-standing enemies of the Amazons, being a case in point. Furthermore, the breakdown of the old, ordered matriarchal world had left the world in a state of chaos and barbarism not unlike that left after the fall of the Roman Empire in what are known as the Dark ages.

But we anticipate. Who were the Amazons?

In the first place they were groups of women who left the new patriarchal domains to set up traditionalist communities in outlying areas – rather as the Pilgrim Fathers fled religious and cultural persecution to found new colonies in America. They created small cities, rural communities and centres of spirituality and learning, perhaps hoping, like the monks of the Dark Ages, that a time would come "when the chaos and barbarism would pass and the flame of the ancient learning and order which they were guarding might once again light the world. Nor were they wrong in this hope.

These communities of women were largely known as moon-maidens, which, in Greek, was rendered *Amazons*. At first there were dangers and difficulties. As the communities flourished and grew they became targets for the warlike patriarchal states. However, the young women were taught by the sages of the communities how the martial arts of archery and the sword could be perfected by spiritual principles. Soon the Amazon armies were the most powerful in the world, capable not only of the defence of the homelands, but ready to liberate nations which had fallen, under the hand of the

patriarchal barbarian.

The Amazon campaigns were overwhelmingly successful. For several centuries the Golden Order was re-established in most parts of the world. The patriarchies became no more than a handful of savages on the fringes of civilisation.

The Amazon empire in the West, which had its main centre in Crete, established a peaceful and deeply spiritual civilisation, a *Pax Amazonia* which lasted rather longer than the Roman Empire. From an overall historical perspective, however, it was only a brief respite for the ancient civilisation in the face of the encroaching tide of the new patriarchal order and a harsher, more materialistic world, for such changes were in the nature of life in the Iron Age.

As the Iron Age wore on, new patriarchal barbarian inroads were made, and the Empire, already succumbing to a new decadence from within – for the healthy life of any order was shortening, in these latter times, from thousands to hundreds of years – fell. Again, the old Amazon tradition was revived. Purified Amazon nations regrouped on the edges of the patriarchal world. The two major groupings were the Libyans in north-west Africa and the Thermodyntines between the Black Sea and the Caspian. The Thermodyntines were by far the largest confederation, and they struck out from their Central Asian stronghold into Europe, India and China, often with great success. Even patriarchal accounts (which tend to dwell on patriarchal successes) tell how an expedition from the Thermodyntine capital of Themiscyra conquered much of Greece and laid siege to Athens itself for four months. The Libyan Amazons in late times also conquered Asia Minor and most of the Egean area. Their most successful warrior-queen, Myrine, founded many famous cities, including Smyrna, Synone, Mitylene, Magnesia, Myrine and Pitane. She was the first to colonise Samothrace. The great Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, one of the seven wonders of the ancient patriarchal world, was erected by the Amazons.

The stubbornness with which modern patriarchal writers have refused to accept the history of the Amazons as anything more than a legend is a glaring example of the dishonesty of the modern academic and mass-communications establishment on anything which challenges entrenched assumptions. To this day, reliefs and statues of events from the last Greek-Amazon war are to be found all over Athens, and long into "classical" times, a yearly festival was held there to celebrate the raising of the siege of the Thermodyntine army of Queen Oreithya. Quite independently of Greek accounts, the Chinese annals speak of the "western women's kingdom" between the Black Sea and the Caspian, and the patriarchal Indian epic, the *Ramayana* speaks of "the warrior women" in the same region. Plutarch, Diodorus Siculus and other reliable classical authors give detailed accounts of Amazon campaigns, and the part played in the Trojan War by an Amazon contingent under Queen Penthesilea is recounted in the *Iliad*.

If all this evidence referred to anything else, it would simply be regarded as an ordinary piece of history. Nothing but the ingrained prejudice of later patriarchy has ever cast the smallest doubt upon it.

In recent years, archaeologists have uncovered the tomb of a high-ranking aristocratic Amazon officer near Krishnev in Moldavia – the heart of the old Thermodyntine territory. She lived toward the end of the Amazon period, about 450 B.C., and was buried with her warhorse, spears and arrows

as well as gold earrings and other personal adornments. Modern historians cannot dismiss this as a "fake," but they can, and will, ignore it.

Because the story of the Amazons has been told by the patriarchs whom they fought, they are thought of as a warlike people. But on the whole, although they had their battles both of defence and of liberation, they were the very reverse; – and although their feats of arms reprieved civilisation for several centuries this was not the greatest of their achievements. With the dawning of the Iron Age, the "spiritual atmosphere" of our world began to harden and grow grosser. The old life, permeated by Spirit at every level, was now above the reach of the mass of people, and fell into decay. This, many would argue, was the underlying reason for the triumph of patriarchy. Under such circumstances it would be easy for the world to degenerate into a violent chaos, unlit by traditional wisdom – just as it nearly did in the later Dark Ages after the fall of Rome. But the old votaries, the mothers of the first Amazon nations, reformed the Golden Order and gave birth to a new way of life, simpler and less demanding than the old way, but still within the realm of

Order, still permeated by beauty, truth and goodness.

Wherever true spirituality has been able to survive under patriarchal conditions, it owes a great debt to the Amazon heritage. Taoism is the Amazon legacy in China. The western tradition, transmitted by Pythagoras, Plato and Plotinus, through the Eleusinian Mysteries, and continuing to shape many of the fundamental conceptions of the the Christian world, stems from the legacy of the *Pax Amazonia* and from the later mystery schools of Egypt and Babylon (conquered by Queen Eurypyle, c. 1758 B.C.). From this latter channel also derives a considerable portion of the Judaic tradition which also descended to the Christian West.

We live then, in a world which is still shaped in many respects by the Amazon tradition. Concepts of spirituality, of order, beauty and harmony, which have been preserved, however imperfectly, until very recently are the legacy of the ancient feminine world and of those who had the courage and fortitude to preserve it at a time when all the lights of civilisation appeared to be going out.

THE TRUTH AND THE QUESTION OF AUTHORITY

The Madrian Faith has no name as such, but the one word which would sum it up most accurately, perhaps, is the Truth, and, indeed, it has been known as such. The capital letter, as in other places, denotes that which is sacred, which is directly Divine, and which needs to be given due respect, may reverence, and to distinguish it from something lesser.

Thus the Truth comes from the Goddess Herself, not from a prophet, a saint or a holy person. A human being was originally the recipient of it inwardly in order to pass it on to others. Moreover, the Goddess has made sure that It remains unadulterated, and not altered to suit human whims and opinions.

Everything that is Madrian doctrine, or tenets, or philosophy, is based in the Truth. To learn more about it in depth, you will need to look at the Scriptures and holy texts, which are easy to understand and surprisingly concise (by comparison with human writings).

In the past few centuries, patriarchal religion has imposed a human authority on people against which they have rebelled and reacted by going to the other extreme of denying the validity of any authority and opting for reliance on human ideas. Nonetheless, religion has continued to be a means by which the Goddess nurtures Her children, and it is important not to dismiss this, and imply that religion has been a force for violence and damage exclusively. As Madrians we have respect for the highest expressions of the good that is in all religions and do not see ourselves opposed to them *per se*.

Naturally, the whole matter of how people have dealt with the question of authority in religion is too broad to enter into here – how people have chosen to interpret the biblical texts, and so on. Within the Madrian Way, there are clear guidelines from the Goddess on this matter, but essentially She asks us to refer ourselves each time to the Spirit, not to rely on fallible human reasoning or emotive reaction. This is a safeguard against error, not a restriction to human free will. In fact, it is the imposition of the human ego that is tyranny, and the Goddess conceived of us as totally free beings, bound only by our choices.

Mostly we are quite unaware whether it is the ego that is leading us or the spirit within, for it is true that each of us is, in essence, a fragment of the Divine Spirit. Some call this the divine spark, though the logical step from this is not that we are therefore 'goddesses' or 'gods'. Again, this is a denial of who the Goddess is, or even that there is the One Supreme Goddess. If words are to have any real validity and meaning, then we should use them as though they do have that meaning. How can a human being be designated as a goddess – can she, therefore, create a whole universe? To love and revere the Goddess means one does not forget about Her, snatch Her title and rob it of meaning. We have plenty to make us feel good about ourselves when we accept our true worth without destroying sacredness. Nor is it true to say the word goddess is "only a word" – a word has power and to misuse it is to be ignorant of that power and of spiritual reality.

The Question of Good and Evil

Very often people find that trying to reconcile the presence of evil in the world – that is, unjust, cruel things happening to innocent people, terrible suffering – is an obstacle to their faith in God/Goddess as all-loving. The Goddess is merciful and Her nature is love – there is no hint of malice, neither in the form of anger, wrath, jealousy, will to inflict punishment nor any other defect. Her mercy is infinite as is Her Love – this is the overriding Truth. The only problem is that we humans are all too often blind to this

Truth; we cannot perceive it or else we will not acknowledge it. The false self uses rationalising to turn us away from faith and belief in God. The facts of our life, our incarnation on this plane, can be very hard to accept, and more than that, when one thinks of any of the extreme circumstances that people have had to live through, such as torture at the hands of evil regimes, what happened in the concentration camps of the Germans (or the Russians, or others), or the extremely debilitating illnesses that afflict young children,

draining life from them, or brutal murders. Surely when we, who have been spared direct experience of such horrors, think about what it takes to behave in such ways, how utterly inhuman it is to commit such acts of brutality, surely we cannot deny that these acts are evil. I make this point because people do still persist in saying there is no such thing as evil. But we are here to learn that evil is the abnegation of good, that we do need to see these two aspects for what they are. If we refuse to accept it even in the fact of what has happened virtually before our eyes, we shall need to keep coming back to this one essential lesson of life. It need not destroy our faith in good, and the source of all good is the Goddess. The Goddess has not created puppets to act out Her will – human beings act with free will and it is the actions and deeds of people that create what happens in the world. At any instant we have the choice to act or not to act, to speak or not to speak. The blame for the evil in the world lies solely with those commit it. Our freedom allows it to happen; the Goddess is the One Who is forever guiding us away from it. To blame God is weak and cowardly and completely unjustified. We should refrain from turning our anger against the Goddess, for that is the greatest injustice and irreverence of all. Only by contemplating the truth of Divine goodness is one able to see what an unspeakable calumny it is to infer that the Goddess has responsibility for evil in the world rather than human beings who

perpetrate it. There are aspects we are not aware of, and if one tries to suggest one has enough knowledge of the laws of karma to be able to pronounce on the fate of individuals, one is greatly deluded. Here a little knowledge is truly a dangerous thing – one cannot make blanket statements about all disabilities, for example, being a punishment for something done wrong in a previous life. The truth is far more complex than one can imagine, and far more worked out by the hand of Love, as is everything else in the world. It is only human beings that create their own evil by word, thought and deed, but by doing so, they allow the forces of darkness to add to it.

We are not helpless in the face of evil. If we wish to make a difference in the world, to lessen suffering, there are ways to achieve this. There is the direct route of action, whenever that is possible, and there are so many good things being achieved by individuals throughout the regions where help is needed most, whether by people or animals. But prayer also achieves changes, especially when we are not able to do anything else physically. It is the one thing that Our Lady, the Daughter, asks for time and time again, because She knows its true efficacy. If we look at Her message in regard to this subject, we see clear guidance based on metaphysical reality: "Change that within you, and the world without will change. But seek to change the world, and all of essence will remain the same".

Prophecies from Heaven

We are living in a time of turmoil when the last of the four ages comes to an end and a new cycle begins with a Golden Age. Thus our society, in the West (but now increasingly throughout the world), is fundamentally an atheistic one, despite pockets of true belief; it is patriarchal in its organisation and consequently it leans heavily towards materialism.* Conflicts are resolved by force and violence, with oppression and injustice in many parts, yet at the same time it achieves advances in higher standards of living (in developed countries).

It is a society out of harmony with nature and the environment. The materialistic ideology permeates every aspect of life and knowledge, including patriarchal religion, and is creating a direction and impulse away from the Centre, the Spirit, towards destruction. Added to this, although there is wealth in the hands of a few, large numbers of people live in dire poverty, with malnutrition and lack of the basic necessities of life. There is no need to detail these global problems which preoccupy us, but the point is that the Goddess is greatly dissatisfied with this state of affairs.

She has been warning Her children to mend their ways in some very direct ways. Here are some of the major occasions when Our Lady, the Daughter, came down from Heaven and appeared in order to give us all Her messages.

• **Lourdes** In 1858 Our Lady appeared to Bernadette by a grotto at the foothills of the Pyrenees, and the healing waters are now visited by millions of pilgrims who pray in the Basilica. Many of the places chosen by Our Lady have been holy places before Christianity, where the Goddess was worshiped under different names and mythologies. Often one can perceive the remains of this in the way veneration surpasses the Catholic parameters.

• **Fatima** In Portugal the Virgin appeared to three young children in 1917 – "a beautiful Lady, brighter than the

sun." A miracle was granted to silence sceptics and when tens of thousands of people gathered, the sun was seen to dance amid great shafts of coloured light at the command of the Lady, Who asked for the consecration of Russia and for people to pray the rosary to bring about an end to war.

• **Cairo** Though given little general publicity, the apparitions of Our Lady at Zeitoun from 1968 to 1971 must rank among the most astonishing public manifestations of the Divine to have occurred in known memory. Vast crowds of people, up to 250,000 at a time and of all faiths and none, clearly saw the Madonna over the Coptic Orthodox Church of St. Mary. Some were even able to photograph the apparitions and many sick were miraculously healed of incurable diseases. On these occasions the wonderful visions of light were not exclusively given to the innocent and open hearts of little children, whilst adults standing near them could see nothing.

• **Medjugorje** The Madonna appeared on several occasions to a group of young people, continually asking people to pray, and to fast, for peace, which became all the more significant when fighting broke out in Bosnia shortly afterwards. Once again, Our Lady was warning people and showing them a way to prevent war which is so abhorrent to Her and causes Her deep sorrow.

• **New York** Our Lady of the Roses appeared to Veronica Lueken in her home and gave her some detailed messages of great importance about events that are on the horizon. These are linked to prophecies not only in the Bible but in other sources, referring to a comet and the possibility of world war with nuclear weapons. Though these prophecies can seem dire and frightening, it is not a matter that they

* The term materialism, from the spiritual perspective, is not merely focusing exclusively on material things, but also being blind to the importance of what is supra-physical and metaphysical.

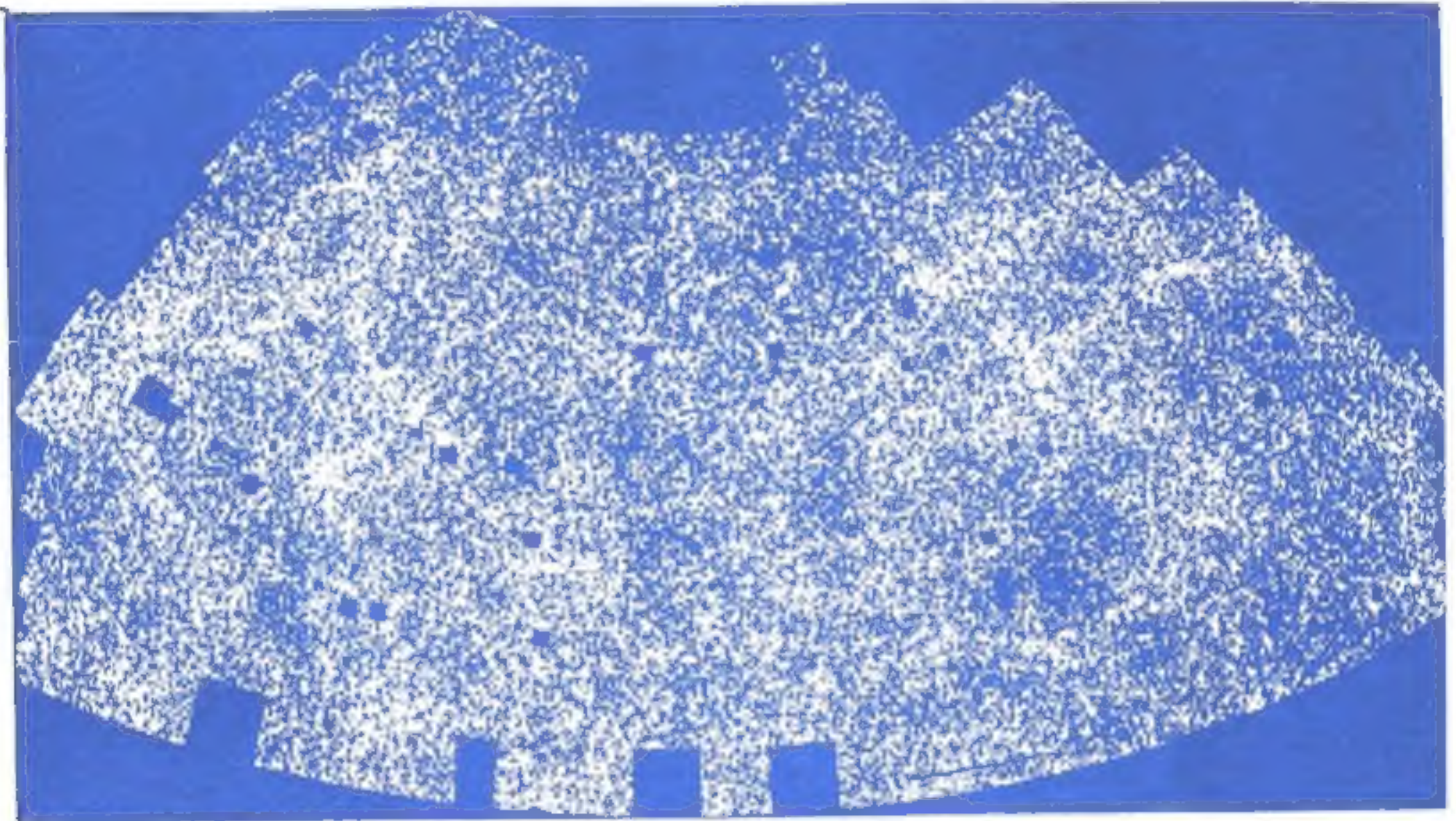
will come to pass definitely - everything depends on our response and how we heed the warnings.

Lack of space prevents us from giving full details of all these important and fascinating stories, and others. But there will come a day when each of us will hear the voice of the Divine within, at a time of crisis. The many instances of statues weeping tears and shedding blood testify to how much Our Lady cares for us and does not want to see us suffer.

She speaks to each one of us, non-believers and believers of

every religion (we are all Her children), for each of us can make a difference by prayer and action. The power of prayer is quite misunderstood and undervalued by those who have not had firsthand experience of its efficacy. But Our Lady wants us to make devotional prayer part of our daily lives, to think of offering up prayers in times of thanksgiving and rejoicing, or asking for protection from danger and disaster, for help to come to us and others. Prayer can be very brief, or part of a longer ritual; in any case, some prayer is better than none.

Picture of Universe



This is a picture of the known universe with its billions and billions of galaxies, each with its uncounted billions of stars, and this is not a complete map of the cosmos. We are at a stage in human history when, thanks to the technological and scientific development, we have so much information about the Goddess's creation and our place within it.

It is true that scientists give us facts about the universe and some of the physical laws that govern matter and nature. But what this kind of science leaves out is in fact the most important aspect - that it is the Goddess who created all that is manifest, and everything is held and sustained, as is said, "In Her hand" - She has knowledge of each star, each particle, each place inaccessible to us and shrouded in mystery. Everything resonates to the music of the spheres and even the cold, empty rocks in the farthest margins sing their praises of the great Creatrix. The energy which flows through the universe in whatever form - gravity, electro-magnetic, nuclear or even subtler forms that are unknown to science - is Her energy, yet She is not in the material world. She caused all the galaxies to be born out of chaos, provided the raw materials, designed the laws, determined the lives of the stars and all the creatures,

and also holds the power to bring it all to an end in the endless stream of time. Nothing happens without Her knowledge, nothing is randomly put together by an accidental "lucky" meeting up of the right ingredients. Life did not evolve in the way scientists conjecture - without a wise, all-knowing design and Designer.

And we must be aware that all this, which is beyond our minds fully to comprehend, is only one aspect of Her absolutely limitless potentiality. In other words, She could create another viable universe, totally unlike this one. Indeed there are different levels of being, different kinds of existence of which we have no idea. Perhaps that is why people's fantasy conjures up science fiction with weird "life-forms."

But it is surely a comforting thing to know that this One Goddess can hold all the galaxies in Her 'consciousness' and at the same time be aware of the smallest details of your life and is able to protect you from danger, should you call upon Her. Moreover, Her love for you is unending and unlimited; it is a love that surpasses human love, yet love is the one thing we are here to learn and find out about.

Finally –

By now you may well have noticed a difference between the way we talk about the Goddess, and whom we regard Her to be, and the way some contemporaries refer to as the earth-goddess. The Madrian Faith is not in contention with Christianity, or Islam or any other faith, nor any way of seeing the Divine. The Faith states the Truth about the Goddess, and invites you to contemplate that Truth which comes directly from the One who created you and who sustains the whole universe in being. You may see this is a wonderful life opportunity. Whether you take it up or not is up to you. There is always more one can learn – about the Goddess, about life; new knowledge opens new horizons.

This particular knowledge is unique among the various, numerous cults and sects, organisations and groups – not because there is one individual claiming to have special secrets or status, or to have direct communication from Heaven. In fact, the Madrian Faith, though it has individuals who lived in holiness and saintliness, avoids the misleading idolisation of the saint or holy person. This is so that devotees maintain their sole focus on the Goddess and never on a human being, however exalted.

The Madrian Faith is unique, in a humble way, for several reasons:

- it is the original knowledge about the origins of the human race and the Sacred Events which underlie all religions in however a distorted a form,
- the Goddess has made sure that this knowledge about the Sacred Events and the knowledge of what constitutes true spiritual progress has been kept unadulterated. Down the innumerable generations, in happy times of open general acceptance, and darker times of suppression and persecution, the knowledge has been safeguarded by those who revered it and knew its true worth, and is now once again openly available to any soul who seeks the Goddess.
- the Truth that is at its core is not based in anything a human being has done or claimed, or thought up, or based in historical events.
- it is a more direct way to make spiritual progress, a more direct way to be at one with the Divine, to live closely to, and in, the Spirit on a daily basis.
- the Madrian Faith is the only one that acknowledges the Goddess for Her true supernal status and does not diminish Her to anything lower.*

It also affirms Her (as the Daughter, Inanna) as our Saviour, who sacrificed Herself in a supra-human way so that the human race might not fall into destruction. This fact has been obliterated by patriarchy, and we need to start turning one by one, to the One Light in a devotional way, according to Her wishes. The whole beautiful truth about the Sacrifice is not something we can trivialise by writing about it here, but it is available, as are all the other sacred texts.

The earth is, in essence, a being (a Genia), as are the other planets and the sun, but the Goddess is not the earth – She is greater.

Also people in past times have tried to mould and use the sacred image to promote their own material ends, and thus made Her into a goddess for material wealth (e.g. Lakshmi), or else a free love or fertility goddess. All this is a degeneration and a corruption of who She really is and is a disservice, at the very least.

Not an armchair philosophy ...

The Madrian Faith is not merely an academic subject to study, not an interesting or new perspective on the past, not something to read about the Goddess and then put aside and forget as life makes its demands on you. To see it as such is to undervalue it totally, to treat the Goddess with disrespect by not paying heed to what She wishes to communicate to you.

It is only She who is 'qualified' to ask of you to do what is needed for the sake of your soul, rather than be swept through life on the stream of the profane allurements which have no spiritual value. The Madrian religion is a way of life that enables you to grow in knowledge year by year, to deepen in faith and to come closer to the Goddess, providing a stable foundation for you on which to build the temple of your soul – the only thing you will be able to take with you into the next life when you leave this one.

Rosa Madriana.



* for example, She is more than Nature, though the Daughter governs the energies and rhythms of nature both in humans and in the natural world, including the stars of the whole cosmos.